

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00922 301346Z

21

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1165

UNCLAS SOFIA 0922

FOR CU/EE, CU/IVP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BU (SOKOLOVSKI, MIKHAIL)

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR: PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

REF: 75 SOFIA 2070

1. SOKOLOVSKI'S SPECIALTY IS DESIGN OF CULTURAL BUILDINGS: OPERA AND CONCERT HALLS, THEATERS, ETC. HE HAS SEEN PICTURES OF AND READ ABOUT "BIG NAMES" IN U.S. (E.G., KENNEDY CENTER, LINCOLN CENTER) BUT NEVER HAS BEEN IN U.S. AND KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT CULTURAL FACILITIES IN OTHER U.S. CITIES (E.G., WALKER CENTER IN MINNEAPOLIS; DENVER CIVIC CENTER). THIS AREA IS AWIS FIRST PRIORITY. HE WILL BE ONE OF SEVERAL BULGARIAN ARCHITECTS PREPARING DESIGNS FOR NEW NATIONAL OPERA BUILDING LATER THIS YEAR AND BELIEVES SOME IDEAS FOR IT COULD RESULTSUROM HIS U.S. EXPERIENCES.

2. SOKOLOVSKI'S SECOND PRIORITY COMBINES HIS SECOND SPECIALTIES: TOWN PLANNING AND RESTORATION, AND SEASIDE HOTELS. HE HEADS TEAM WHICH HAS RESTORED OLD BULGARIAN SEA-SHORE RESORT OF SOZOPOL (SOUTHEAST OF BURGAS). HE WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO SEE PACIFIC COAST BETWEEN SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES, IN PREFERENCE TO, E.G., MIAMI BEACH. ON SUBJECT OF TOWN RESTORATION, WE SUGGEST VISIT TO CENTRAL CITY, COLORADO, PARTICULARLY IF OPERA PERFORMANCES ARE GOING ON DURING HIS VISIT.

3. SOKOLOVSKI'S AVOCATIONAL INTERESTS ARE BROAD-GAUGED  
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CULTURAL: CONCERTS, THEATER, OPERA -- BUT NOT CINEMA.

HE WOULD BE PLEASED BY HOME HOSPITALITY BY FELLOW ARCHITECTS AND OTHER CULTURAL WORKERS (E.G., ARTISTS). HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DESCRIBE BULGARIAN ACHIEVEMENTS TO COLLEAGUES, BUT IS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC. THIS MAY BE BECAUSE OF LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN H Y ENGLISH, WHICH HE SAID HE HAS NOT USED REGULARLY, BUT IT APPEARED VERY ADEQUATE AND SMOOTH IN CONVERSATION WITH P&C OFFICER.

4. WE RECOMMEND VPS INVOLVE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS IN SOKOLOVSKI'S PROGRAM, BOTH TO PROVIDE EXPERTISE AND TO FURTHER DEVELOP TIES WITH BULGARIAN UNION OF ARCHITECTS CREATED BY RECENT IV GRANT TO ARCHITECT LYUBEN TONEV.  
FELDMAN

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